

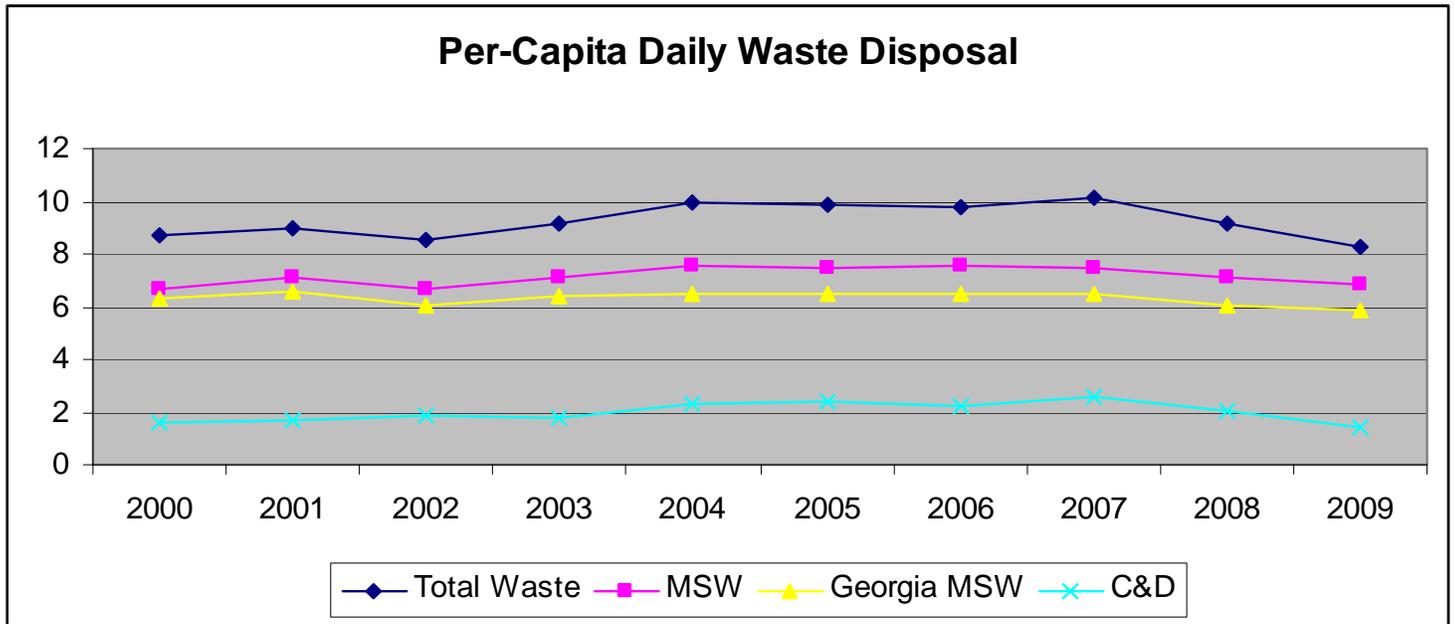


Per Capita Disposal 2009 Solid Waste Management Update

Georgia's waste reduction efforts, combined with the economic downturn has resulted in a marked lowering of Georgia's per-capita MSW disposal rates. As more Municipal Solid Waste landfills create special sections of their facilities to accept only C&D waste, they divert that waste stream from their MSW cells, thereby lowering the overall per-capita MSW disposal rates. When excluding out-of-state waste imports, the amount of waste entering Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfills fell to 5.87 lbs/person/day in FY 2009, the lowest in a decade.

Since FY 1998, the per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate had grown from 6.44 lbs/person/day to about 7.5 lbs/person/day in FY 2007. But in FY 2009, Georgia's MSW landfills received 7.26 pounds of waste daily for each resident. Looking at records that exclude the amount of waste disposed from out-of-state sources, the per capita MSW disposal rate has been even lower, climbing from 6.24 lbs/person/day in FY 1998 to 6.46 lbs/person/day in FY 2007 before falling to 5.87 lbs/person/day in FY 2009.

As shown in the *Per Capita Daily Waste Disposal* graph, there is more than one way to track per-capita disposal rates. In FY 2009, 14,408,339 tons of waste entered Construction/Demolition and MSW landfills in the Georgia. When looking at the reported total amount of waste disposed, the per capita waste disposal rate fell to 8.28 lbs/person/day in FY 2009, down from a decade-high of 10.17 lbs/person/day in FY 2007. This figure represents all waste entering MSW and C&D landfills, including out-of-state sources. It includes residential waste, sludge from municipal wastewater treatment plants, some industrial waste, construction debris, commercial and business waste, and waste brought here from other states. It does not include waste sent to incinerators or composting operations, nor does it include yard trimmings and land-clearing debris sent to inert landfills..





Per Capita Disposal 2009 Update

Looking at the disposal rate at MSW landfills only, including waste disposed from out-of-state sources, the per capita disposal rate has hovered at about 7.5 pounds per person per day in recent years before dropping in FY 2008. It should be noted that these rates reflect all waste entering a MSW landfill as reported to the EPD, not just MSW. According to a 2001 study, about two-thirds of the waste disposed in MSW landfills is actually MSW. Based upon this estimate, the FY 2009 per capita MSW disposal rate, excluding waste imported into the state, is approximately 3.89 lbs/person/day.

Imported waste has grown ten-fold, from representing 0.1/lb/person/day in 1998 (less than 200,000 tons) to 0.95 lbs/person/day in FY 2009 (nearly 1.7 million tons.)

The economic recession is undoubtedly behind some of the decreasing per-capita waste reductions outlined in this report. However, it is heartening that despite plunging commodity prices for recyclable materials, DCA has seen only a handful of local government collection programs discontinued. In fact, programs have been added, existing programs have expanded the types of material collected, and interest in conservation issues among the public has seemingly continued to rise. While difficult to quantify, it is difficult to imagine that the recycling and waste reduction efforts of so many communities has not contributed to the decline in Georgia's per-capita waste disposal rate. In fact, the drop in Georgia's per-capita disposal rate occurred at the same time as single-stream recyclables collection began in many communities.

With only partial reporting in calendar year 2009 the Material Recovery Facilities handling collected recyclables reported processing and marketing 175,327 tons of material (that removes as much emissions from the air as burning nearly 50 million gallons of gasoline.) Much of this material will be used in Georgia-based manufacturing operations such as paper and carpet mills or glass and metal smelting operations.

Georgia Waste Disposal Rate and Population FY 2000-2009

Fiscal Year	Population	Total Waste Landfilled (Millions of tons)	Total Waste Landfilled (Pounds/person/day)	Total Waste Disposed in MSW Landfills (Tons)	Out of State Waste (Tons)	Total MSW (Pounds/person/day)	GA MSW (Pounds/person/day)
2000	8,015,626	12.71	8.69	9,724,736	511,472	6.65	6.30
2001	8,186,453	13.36	8.94	10,678,980	893,651	7.15	6.55
2002	8,383,915	13.04	8.52	10,233,692	950,779	6.68	6.05
2003	8,544,005	14.25	9.14	11,135,473	1,197,686	7.14	6.38
2004	8,684,715	15.77	9.95	11,916,124	1,633,182	7.52	6.50
2005	8,918,129	16.46	9.85	12,155,598	1,627,044	7.47	6.52
2006	9,132,553	16.66	9.77	12,531,898	1,889,312	7.52	6.48
2007	9,363,941	17.39	10.17	12,746,159	1,942,647	7.45	6.46
2008	9,523,297	16.27	9.49	12,623,173	1,857,687	7.26	6.19
2009	9,685,744	14.64	8.28	12,049,709	1,678,013	6.82	5.87